

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application:

1 (original) A method for managing at least one storage device, comprising the steps of:

- (a) identifying the one storage device;
- (b) establishing a database containing information about the identified device;
- (c) providing to the user a graphical user interface in accordance with the information in the database, the graphical interface displaying at least one menu option for the identified device for selection by the user to request at least one of (i) display of information and (ii) execution of at least one process to control the operation of the one storage device;
- (d) processing the selected menu option; and
- (e) automatically updating the graphical user interface in response to the processing of the selected menu option.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of identifying the one storage device comprises the step of ascertaining a manufacturer and model number for the one storage device.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of establishing a database comprises the step of obtaining information that includes at least one of (a) operational rules, (b) commands and (c) processing routines of the one storage device.

4. (original) The method according to claim 3 wherein the processing step includes

- determining if the requested execution of the at least one process complies with the operational rules for the identified device, and if not,
- blocking execution of the at least one process; and
- generating an error message.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of providing a graphical user interface includes the steps of:
- displaying icons representative of each identified devices in a hierarchical fashion in a first pane; and
 - displaying information in a second pane related a corresponding one of the icons displayed in a first pane.
6. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein steps (d) and (e) are repeated following receipt of each subsequent menu selection made by a user.
7. (original) Apparatus for managing at least one storage device, comprising:
- a database containing information about potential storage devices; and
 - a processor coupled to at least one storage device for (a) identifying the one storage device; (b) providing to a user a graphical user interface in accordance with the information in the database, the graphical interface displaying at least one menu option for the identified device for selection by the user to request at least one of (i) display of information and (ii) execution of at least one process to control the operation of the one storage device; (d) processing the selected menu option; and (e) automatically updating the graphical user interface in response to the processing of the selected menu option.
8. (original) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the processor identifies the one storage device by ascertaining its manufacturer and model number.
9. (original) The apparatus according to claim 7 database contains information that includes at least one of (a) operational rules, (b) commands and (c) processing routines of the one storage device.

10. (original) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the processor process the selected menu option by (a) determining if the requested execution of the at least one process complies with the operational rules for the identified device, and if not, (b) blocking execution of the at least one process; and (c) generating an error message.

11. (original) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the processor provides the graphical user interface by (a) displaying icons representative of each identified devices in a hierarchical fashion in a first pane; and (b) displaying information in a second pane related a corresponding one of the icons displayed in a first pane.